

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

3/8/05

THIRD READING

SBs 53-4 (Brown) SB 151 (Brown)

<u>SB 53</u> would add violations of Senate Bill 54 to the sentencing guidelines. Installation or attempted installation of spyware would be a felony punishable by a maximum of two years' imprisonment. Installation or attempted installation with a prior conviction would be a felony punishable by imprisonment for up to four years.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was not adopted.
- Brown 2 (S-2) was adopted.
- SB 53 was moved to 3rd Reading.

<u>SB 54</u> would prohibit a person from installing or attempting to install spyware on another person's computer without permission. The bill also would prohibit a person from manufacturing, creating, distributing, or possessing spyware to be used in violation of the bill.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was not adopted.
- Brown 2 (S-3) was adopted.
- Brown 2A (1 amend) was adopted.
- Brown 2B (1 amend) was adopted.
- SB 54 was moved to 3rd Reading.

<u>SB 151</u> would create the Spyware Control Act, which would prohibit unauthorized installation of spyware on individuals' computers, and would provide remedies for civil damages to be sought. Spyware is any technology (usually a computer program) that aids in gathering information about a person or organization without their knowledge, and often without their consent. Such information can range from what websites a user likes to visit (which allows tailoring of advertising content, often in annoying "pop-up" windows), to keystroke logging (allowing for pilfering of sensitive personal information, such as passwords, social security numbers, or credit card numbers), and is often sent to a remote computer to be used in unethical/illegal ways.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was not adopted.
- Brown 2 (S-3) was adopted.
- SB 151 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 70 (Birkholz)

SB 70 would permit the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources, to administer an "Adopt-A-Watershed Program" in which volunteer groups would participate in cleanup, conservation, and pollution prevention activities. Michigan has a long history of citizen involvement in programs that foster environmental education, conservation, and stewardship. Citizen participation in such programs encourages public awareness and provides environmental benefits on a cost-effective basis.

Support: NWF, MML, CWA, MUCC, Trout Unlimited, DEQ, MEC.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- Birkholz 1A (1 amend) was adopted.
- SB 70 was moved to 3rd Reading.